### JOHN AND ELIZA ANN WINTERTON THACKER



John Thacker was born June 7, 1867, at Smithfield, Cache County, Utah, a son of William and Rachel Tonks Thacker. He married Eliza Ann Winterton on December 19, 1894, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born October 9, 1872, at Charleston, Utah, daughter of William and Ellen Widdison Winterton. John died February 23, 1951, at Daniel. Eliza died January 12, 1960.

John Thacker, with his parents, moved from Smithfield to Peoa and later to Heber, then to Buysville.

John always said when he married he wanted to take his bride to a home of their own. This he did. It was a two-room red brick house. He also owned a small farm and a good team of horses. They have lived in the same house all their married life, adding on to it several times

They were industrious, honest, friendly, charitable and hospitable. They always encouraged their children to take an active part in Church work and other activities.

John made a living by farming, raising a few cattle and in the earlier days by team work and hauling lumber from sawmills. He

was a jack of all trades — did a little carpenter work, including barn building, blacksmithing, etc. He made playthings for his children, such as sleighs, cupboards, tables, etc. For many years he repaired the family shoes. He loved children and enjoyed playing with them.

Often in the evening he would take the old banjo down from the wall and sing as he played.

John and Eliza were both active in the Church and community. He helped build roads, canals, the electric light line to Daniel, the culinary water system and the ward amusement hall.

Eliza was especially active in Relief Society for many years, helping with the sick, making burial clothing and ward teaching. She served as a counselor a number of years. John served as superintendent of the Sunday School and was a High Priest.

Their son Ralph A, served a mission to Samoa. Irwin also served a mission. Their son Fay is bishop at Castle Gate and Horton served in the bishopric at Daniel with Bishop Dean Bethers.

John and Eliza worked hard all their lives to provide for their growing family and were good managers.

Their golden wedding was celebrated December 17, 1944.

Their children are: Ralph A., Nellie, Chloe, Fav. Irwin, Thora, Aurtance, Horton, Afton, Weston.

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Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah

VERN & SUZANNE THACKER

In 1981, after roaming for thirty years, they returned to the land Vern C. and Suzanne Witt Thacker are natives of Heber Valley. Both are descendants of pioneers who helped to settle this area. of Timpanogas.

Vern served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving in the South Pacific. after completing a California Mission, he graduated from B.Y.U. with a B.A. degree in English and Education. Suzanne studied music at the University of Utah. The two were

married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1953. Vern was employed by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. in Salt Lake City. Two daughters, Laura Lee and Janette, were born there. The Thackers were jolted out of their comfortable niche in 1967 when Vern was transferred to New York City. For three years he worked as an efficiency specialist in major cities from coast to coast.

The family was ecstatic when he was transferred to San Jose, They vowed that they would California where he became the District Manager for Dun & Bradstreet in the San Jose district.

The world was very dull Jim was born in San Jose in 1971. never again move east of the Rockies.

before he was born. Our life in Heber is filled with Church and family activities, scouting, music, and sports. It is a challenge to face the arctic weather after twelve years in California. We don't pick oranges

Laura is a computer specialist. She married a San Jose Police Officer, Kenneth Ferguson, Jr. He filled a mission in Italy. in January any more.

Chris and Eric, who are very devoted to their Uncle Jim. You may see a baby stroller flash by at 60 MPH on our steep Valley Hills Janette lives in Logan with her husband, Stephen W. Jewell, an Attorney. His mission was in Germany. They have two sons,

roads. It will be Jim entertaining his favorite nephews.

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#### WILLIAM AND RACHEL TONKS THACKER

William Thacker was born at Darlington. Staffordshire, England, June 6, 1823, a son



of Aaron and Leah Horton Thacker. He married Rachel Tonks in 1844. She was been in Willinhail. Staffordshire. England in June 27, 1827, daughter of Farnally Timothy and Ann Jones Tonks. They were later scaled in the Endowment House on February 15, 1862. Rachel died May 7, 1893, at Charleston. William married Mary Brown in the Salt Lake Temple in 1899. She died in 1909. William died January 15, 1915, at Heber, at the home of his daughter, Isabell Moulton, at the age of 91.

William Thacker had one brother. Their father, Aaron, died when the boys were very young and their mother marri d'again. At the age of 21, William married Rachel Tonks. She worked both before and after her marriage for a manufacturing company.

In 1856, they set sail by steerage for America, bringing with them their four living children Leah was born September 13. 1845; Hannah, born March 22, 1847; Lida, Forn and died August 25, 1848; Anna Maria, born November 1, 1849; Ehzabeth, born May 24, 1851, and Timothy born November 7, 1854. They had joined the LDS Church the year Elizabeth was born. They were six weeks crossing on the site. Amazon, landing at Boston, Mass., on July 12, 1856. They went to New York, where Eliza Jane was born. November 17, 1856, who died in Philadelphia on November 5, 1857. While in Philadelphia both parents worked in a factory polishing buckles while preparing to core to Utah. The children attended school. Here Isabell was born July 12, 1858, and Sarah Ann was born January 7, 1861, who died November 6, 1861. After living in Philadelphia five years they had earned enough to provide clothing and supplies for themselves and children so were ready to start across the plains for Utah. Before they could start the U.S. officers took William and were going to draft him into the army to fight in the Civil War, but emigration officers freed him from the assignment. With help provided by the Emigration Fund, they left Florence. Nebraska, July 1, 1861, for Utah with an ox-team and wagon in Captain Joseph Horne's company. Charles Cowley was the teamster. The family walked, except Rachel, who was a heavy woman. They made 15 miles a day, stopping to wash, etc.

Once after a heavy rain. William found what he thought were mushrooms, gathered some and cooked them for dinner. They were toadstools and made the family very ill. After all were administered to they recovered and suffered no ill effects.

They arrived in Salt Lake September 18. 1861. and lived in a dugout west of the Temple block while William worked in President Young's blacksmith shop at the mouth of City Creek, making nails for the Salt Lake Theater. The children went to school in Brigham Young's school house with his children. November 5, 1861, William bought a farm from the Church and built an adobe house. Charles was born August 18, 1862. John was born June 7, 1863 and Fredrick A., October 1864.

After living in Salt Lake three years they moved to Cache Valley, living in Logan one year, then moving to Clarkston, then to Smithfield, then to Peoa, where he worked as a blacksmith. He also worked on the railroad coming into Utah and was at Promontory Point when the road was completed, and at the celebration of the driving of the golden spike. After this they moved to Heber and finally out south of Heber to Buysvil'e in 1871, where he homesteaded a quarter section on Daniels Creek.

William was a small man, only five feet five. He and Rachel were very sociable people and met with others in the evenings to sing. William had a fine bass voice and Rachel, soprano. They were wonderful help in the wards this way. While in Buysville, the ward was organized and William was pointed first counselor to Charles J. Wahlquist. Rachel worked in Relief Society, helped others sew and knitted for others to help make a living for the family. William was a great 'prayer.' They were very charitable, never letting anyone go away hungry.

William liked to walk and would walk from Daniel and carry a bucket of eggs to town. People report that when anyone would stop and offer him a ride, he would say. "No thanks, I'm in a hurry," In his dechining years he lived with his children.

His living children were: Hannah. Anna Maria, Elizabeth. William Timothy. Isabell. Charles E., John. Fredrick A., and George Nephi Hughes, and adopted son.

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# JEDEDIAH MORGAN WALKER AND SYLENA GILES WALKER

Jedediah Slorgan Walker, son of William Henry Walker and Ada Louisa Phippen Walker, was born on July 13, 1871, in Wanship, Utah, Sylena Giles Walker, a daughter of Frederick Giles and Maria Sharp Giles, was born February 12, 1872, in Heber, Utah.

Morgan and Sylena were married June

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ill. 1894, and to their was from tour clasores. Pearli Donnides Inda and Glade.

Morgan worked in the mines at Keetley and in Pack City. Utah The was also a trapper, himter and fisherman. It was often told of Morgan that he could catch is, when no one che could, and he loved Paspert.

Morgan also <u>played the vicin</u>, and from he never had any formal less as and played only by ear, he was always in demand to play for local dances. When anyone visited their home they always wanted to listen to Morgan play is vicin. And during his Letinge he played so much that he work growns where his fragers visted. All the click their home for Morgan would always play and visit with them, and they loved him for it.

Sylena was a queet lady and suffered all her life from poor health. But in spite of this, she did Relief Society teaching, besides all the rigors of rearing four young children. And often Morgan was away in the hills, when she had much responsibility to shoulder. It was said of her that she was a good neighbor, and friends.

her neighbors and friends.

Jedediah Morgan Walker died on May
20, 1930, in Salt Lake City, Utah and
Sylena Giles Walker died on January 27,
1948, in Genns Ferry, Idah).

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O. A. Whitaker, beloved music teacher in Wasatch schools.

And then in the yearbook of 1913 is this tribute:

Professor Whitaker cannot be too highly praised for his work in the schools.

"We might write page after page about him, but with the limited space at our command, we can give no more than a brief summary of his most important work.

"He presented a very creditable opera last Christmas and is completing a very successful school year by presenting the opera "The Merry Milkmaids."

He has built up a band of which Wasatch may well be proud. Out of the worst medley of sounds imaginable, he has trained an orchestra that has played some excellent music for several entertainments this winter."

From its inception. Wasatch High School claimed many "firsts" in statewide athletic and cultural competition. One of the most noteworthy achievements came in the years 1911 and 1912 when Ila Fisher (Maughan) put Heber City and Wasatch County on the state's cultural map by winning the state public speaking contests two years in a row.

The contests, sponsored by the University of Utah, drew the best high school orators from the state to Salt Lake City for the two-day competition.

In 1911 Miss Fisher won the contest's gold medal with an original oration on "Mother's Day." The old Salt Lake Herald Republican of May 20, 1911, carried a picture of the winner with a headline: 'Mother' Accorded the First Prize; Ila Fisher of Wasatch High School Wins Interscholastic Contest.

The Wasatch Wave of the following week reprinted the oration with a glowing tribute to its author and gold-medal winner.

Students of the new and growing high school were so proud of their classmate that they turned out en masse to meet her train as she arrived home from the contest. As she stepped from the train, Miss Fisher was greeted with stirring music from the school band. The group then went

Ammon Van Wagoner

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Ferrin Van Wagener Venice Moon Supt Schools Clarinetist

Son of Halmah I. Van Wagoner and Mary Van Houten Van Wagoner.

Born September 1, 1811, at Wanague, New Iersey.

Married Eliza Smith
Married Clarissa Tappen
Married Elizabeth Young in 1856
Married Agnes Melbrose
Married Zella Allen
Died September 1889 in Provo.

Eliza Smith, born September 10, 1815, in New Jersey. She died young, September 15, 1840.

Clarissa Tappen, daughter of George Tappen and Sarah Drew Tappen. Born November 24, 1824, in Pompton, New Jersey. Died January 1914, at Midway.

Elizabeth Young, married in 1856.

John Halmah, by trade, was a carpenter, cabinetmaker, mill wright, wheel wright, and skilled mechanic.

He married five women, and from these marriages had nineteen children.

Eliza died while her children were very young, leaving John to care for the children. He met Clarissa Tappen in Pompton.

New Jersey.

Clarissa and John Halmah were married by a Dutch Reform Minister by the name of Doolittle. After they came to Utah they had their endowments in Salt Lake.

They first heard Mormonism at a meet-

ing in Meads Basin near Pomptom, New Jersey. They were baptized in 1842. Shortly after, they moved to Nauvoo.

While in Nauvoo, they helped in the activities of the Church. They were acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife. Emma. Clarissa visited in their home frequently.

Before leaving New Jersey they sold their property. They gave \$500.00 to the church as their contribution to help finance the immigrants.

They moved from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters in David Wood's Company.

They returned to Iowa to secure an outfit with which to continue the journey to Salt Lake valley. At Honey Creek, Iowa, he built a grist mill.

A daughter, Hester, became very ill and died. Her father made a casket of shingles and her mother made her clothes. With sad hearts they laid her to rest under a chestnut tree.

In the meantime, his father and mother who had accompanied them to Winter Quarters became ill with cholera and died. There were 600 of the Saints who died of the disease at that time. This was during the year 1847. John Halmah and his brother-in-law, Jno. Fairbanks made coffins from their wagon box and laid them to rest.

Before leaving new Jersey they sent many of their belongings with Samuel Brannon around Cape Hope to San Francisco. California. With them was a small grist mill John Halmah had made. The goods were to be transported overland to Salt Lake. They never saw any of those things again.

Clarissa said that they were often very weary from traveling, but when the evening meal was over and the children were in bed they sand and danced. Her favorite song. "Come, Come, Ye Saints," gave them the courage that no other song did. It buoyed them up until the journey's end. They arrived in Salt Lake September 20, 1852.

In 1856 he married his third wife, Elizabeth Young. Seven children were born to them.

His fourth wife was Agnes Melbrose, and his fifth wife was Zella Allen. Neither of these wives had children.

John Halmah built flour mills at Fort Supply, Fort Bridger, at Payson for Charles B. Hancock, at Provo for Joseph Kelton (this was later known as the Tanner Mills), at Mt. Pleasant, and one at Midway.

In 1861 he moved his families to Midway to the lower settlement. It was here that he built the first grist mill in the county. He hauled the granite from American Fork, using two yokes of oxen. It was a long, slow journey with the heavy granite. He used a hammer and chisel to carve the mill wheel and make it round.

This same wheel is now on the top of the Daughters of the Pioneers monument in Midway.

They lived in the fort at Midway when the Indians became troublesome.

While living in Midway he helped build homes. At this time he paid one dollar and twenty cents a pound for nails. He built a home for President Hatch at Heber. He also made furniture for this home. He furnished his wives' homes with furniture he had made.

On several occasions he furnished oxen and wagons to bring immigrants from the Missouri River to Utah. He not only designed and made furniture but he built many wagons.

John Halmah and his sons, David, William and Henry, were musicians. John Halmah and David furnished music for dances in the early days. He made a musical instrument called the dulcimer.

He was a friend to the Indians. They would do anything for him. He was a kind. good father to his families, and was a good neighbor. He was a member of the High Priest Quorum and died faithful to the gospel.

Clarissa's home at first was a log room with an attic above. She had many mouths to feed but did this by cooking her meals on a griddle bake oven and by hanging kettles over a fireplace. Food was scarce, but the boys helped by catching fish.

She sewed and worked by candle light. Sewing was all done by hand.

With all the hardships she never complained. She was always jovial and happy. She had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel.

She taught the gospel to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a loving, kind mother and neighbor. She was hospitable and charitable.

Her mind was keen to the very last. She enjoyed living. She lived to be 90 years, two months and ten days old.

Children of John Halmah Van Wagoner and Eliza Smith:

David, married Julia Provost Mrs. Alfred (Mary) Newell Children of John Halmah Van Wagoner and Clarissa Tappen: Ephraim, married Catherine Hamilton Hester, died in childhood John, married Margaret Faucett Mrs. Joseph (Ann) Bagley Mrs. Everice (Cynthia) Bronson William-Lelia Alexander-Nora Jacques Mrs. David (Clarissa) Provost Henry did not marry Orson died in infancy George, married Eva Bunnell Children of John Halmah Van Wagoner and Elizabeth Young:

John Alfred, married Sarah Stark
Franklin Douglas, married Mary Hansen
Mrs. Joshua (Mary) Graves
Mrs. Richard (Elizabeth A.) Sutton
Mrs. Eugene (Stella Jane) Titus
Parley Pratt, married Mary Jones
Mrs. John D. (Lilly Maud) Fisher.

veloped from this instrument.

CHARLES B. RIGHTER

The Dutcimer is used by many Gypsy bands in Central Europe. The player produces harsh tones by striking wires with wooden mallets.

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism



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#### JOHN MONROE WHEELER AND SARAH ANN DAVIS



John Monroe Wheeler (known as Jim Wheeler) was born February 22, 1830, in Genesee County. New York, son of John C. Wheeler, born 1808, in Scotland, and Betsy E. Temple, born in Holland. She died August 12, 1920, at Strawberry, Duchesne County, Utah, He married first, Mary E. Washburn, who was born in Genesee County. They had two children: Welsy and Julia.

After coming West he married Sarah Ann Davis, who was born October 22, 1858, in Beaver County, Utah. She was a daughter of John Meeks Davis, who was born September 9, 1823, in County Lucespenco, Ireland.

Their children are: Monroe, George, Elizabeth, Martha Ann, John, James, Wallace, Frank, Ellen, Bertha May and Myrtle.

John Monroe Wheeler was a soldier in the Civil War and was called Jim from then until his death. He was a farmer and rancher. He played the violin and guitar for many, many dances and also sang. He liked to catch bears.



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Pioneer Civil War Vet. Farmer Rancher Musician Entertainer

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One of the first steps toward a county high school came when J. Reuben Clark. Jr., of Grantsville, came to Wasatch County to teach high school subjects. Members of his class, pictured here, are, back row, left to right. Frank Conrad. Jay R. Smith. Anna Hatch, J. Reuben Clark, Jr., Lottie Moulton, David Baird, Center Row, Zina Bond, Isabell Baum, John McDonald and John Neil, Front Row: T. Henry Moulton, Phoebe Bonner, Annie Murdock and Elizabeth Lindsay.

met with a small group of students in the northwest room of the second floor of the Central School.

About this same time, or shortly afterward. Alfred J. Bond taught a group of students in high school work in the upper story of a building occupied by John Winterrose, undertaker. Following Mr. Clark and Mr. Bond were Alfred J. Ridges and O. J. Call who taught high school subjects in the old "Sleepy Hollow" school in the years 1906 and 1907. About 20 students attended their courses.

The present Wasatch High School had its beginnings in 1908 when classwork was started in rooms of the North School with a faculty of three teachers—James Johnson, J. W. Robinson and O. A. Whitaker. Rooms were also rented over the old Heber Mercantile on the corner of Main Street between Center and First South. Some classes were also held in rooms adjoining the old bank just west of the Mercantile.

By 1912 the present pot rock portion of the high school was erected and classwork was conducted on a regular basis. An addition of classrooms and other facilities comprising the right-wing or red brick portion



The first band and orchestra of Wasatch High School in 1908-1909, under the direction of O. A. Whitaker. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Seymour Duke, Minnie Duke and Mazie Campbell: second row, Douglas Murdock, Rolland Wootton, Ben Roberts, Stuart Fortie, Elijah Hicken, Leland Wootton and Walter Burgener, Back row, Sylvan Rasband, Robert McKnight, Adolph Hansen, Abe Turner, Claud Willis, Prof. O. A. Whitaker, William Bond, Guy Duke, Clayton Montgomery, Florence Fisher, Lecia Murdock, Jone Davis and Pearl Buys.

of the school was made in 1927 and provided a permanent home for the high school.

The educational progress of Wasatch High School has been guided during the years by devoted principals. These have included J. W. Robinson, Andrew L. Neff, Owen F. Beal, James Johnson, Favette Stephens, Wm. J. Bond, Oswald L. Pearson, Lamond F. Hutchings, Edson Packer and Marion Tree.

The early high school curriculum consisted of a few academic subjects taught by the principal and one or two teachers. However, the present program has broadened to include many subjects with as many specialists to do the instruction. In addition there are numerous social, vocational and cultural subjects and extra-curricular opportunities available to the students.

During the years Wasatch High has won success in many school endeavors. Clark J. Crook and Douglas Edwards, a poultry judging team coached by Farrell Olson, represented all of Utah at a National Poultry Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1931 the school band, directed by Delmar Dickson, participated



Participants in the high school opera "Princess Chrysanthemum," directed by Prof. O. A. Whitaker, are pictured here, as follows: Back row: left to right, Elijah Hicken, Alice Clegg, Mina Bond, Mattie Clegg, Mazie Campbell, Lecia Murdock, Lula Clegg, Ethel Hicken and Cardwell Clegg, Center row, Gladys Lindsay, Annie Lindsay, Mable Ritchie, Naomi Duke, Annie McMullin, Rolland Wootton. Front row, Clayton Montgomery, Ben Roberts, Minnie Duke, Jewett Fortie, Arthur Olson and Rue Murdock.

building. One of our banners read, 'All praise to the High School supporters! Thank you, Pa: you'll never regret it!' and that's what we say. We also wish to thank each member of the Board for his loyal and untiring efforts. We feel that you are behind us and willing to supply us with everything we need to make us a great and creditable High School. The vote on the bonds convince us that practically all the thinking people are High School 'boosters,' that they appreciate our efforts, and that they are satisfied with the conditions of the school at the present time.

"The demonstration made when it was a known fact that the bonds were voted was conclusive proof that there is spirit and enthusiasm in the school; it also gave an idea of what our strength will be next year. 'You've given us room to live and learn, now watch us grow and develop.'

"Few, if any, realize what the vote Bonds, Yes,' means for this county. It means, first, that we shall have a commodious up-to-date building, that will accommodate 300 students, and teachers enough to give them proper instruction. It also means that next year 150 young men and women from this valley will be receiving an education in one of the best high schools on earth. Look at the money this keeps in the county, and look at the dozens of the best boys and girls in our valley who will have an opportunity of gaining an education who couldn't think of obtaining such a luxury were it not for the fact that they can get it at home.

"Students, our parents and supporters have done their part, now it is our turn to prove that we are made of the right 'stuff.' The way to do this is to get in and work. Don't let the first ray of sunshine melt your ambition, but stay with the school until the last day. When school closes get out and 'rustle' so that when school opens next September we can show the people that we appreciate their efforts by taking advantage of our new High School building."

The spirit of the occasion ran so high that on the day after the election the school band, directed by Prof. O. A. Whitaker, joined by all the faculty, the student body and even eighth graders, (high school students of the next year), started on a tour of the entire district to show their appreciation to the voters. The first stop was in Midway where the band played a number of selections. Charleston was the next stop, and a waiting group of people greeted the entourage here. A few tunes by the band were played, and then lunch was served. A short parade followed down the street, and then the group was off for Daniel where they serenaded the town. Center was the next stop where cheering townspeople greeted them with another lunch. After a short program the touring group returned to Heber, arriving at 6 p.m.

In 1908 Orson Adelbert Whitaker and family moved to Heber. O. A. came to supervise and teach music in the district schools and high school. He was a real friend of the young people and he had a way of getting the pupils to take part in things and bring out hidden talent.

Beside his work in the schools, he was an ardent civic and church worker. He furnished music for many funerals and celebrations.

He loved Wasatch County and wished to be buried there when he died. Today his remains lie in the Midway Cemetery.

Some of his sons bought the old Schneiters Hot Pots and have made the place a modern resort.

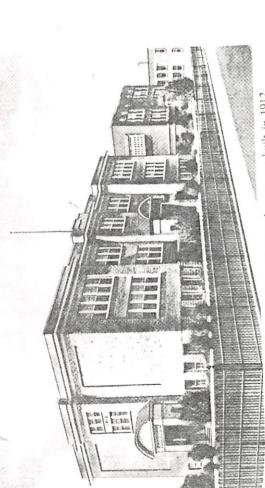
Typical of the love his students bore for him is this article from the student yearbook of 1910:

"Our music department is one of the most notable features of our school. It has been a source of comfort and cheer to us when our path seemed dark and rugged. Few schools can boast of such a band and orchestra as ours. They are ever ready to do service to uplift and make known our institution.

"Seldom can there be found less than 90 per cent of all the students taking music. We have the largest vocal department of any high school in the state, that is, in proportion to the enrollment.

"Music has carried our victories into every home, taken them to every heart. Mr. Whitaker, as director, has put forth every effort to make his work the big success that it is. Much praise is due him for his noble, energetic work. An operetta has been presented each year. They have always been big successes."

He did a great deal to put over the high school bond issue for a new high school.



The Wasatch High School Building. The south part was built in 1912.

in the Lions International band contest in Los Angeles and won fourth place in the nation, receiving a \$500 prize. That same year the drill team directed by Lee Kay won first place in its competition. Later the band participated in a national contest at Denver and won first place in the Class B high school competition and fourth place in open class com-

Under Delmar Dickson, the school's music department participated Under Delmar Dickson, the school's music department participated in many events. There were operas, glee club recital, chorus concerts and the band and orchestra performances. Uniforms for the band were the pride of the school. There were trips, parades, concerts, fairs and broadcasts to keep interest alive in music work. A newsreel of the band broadcasts to keep interest alive in music work. A newsreel of the band was made during the Los Angeles Lions Club competition which was

shown throughout the country.

Support of the band's trips came through efforts of the Band Mother's Club, which worked to raise money for uniforms and special events.

Since 1908 the following teachers have directed the music depart-

ment: O. A. Whitaker, Arnold Bergener, Clyde Miller, Vernon Johansen. Delmar Dickson, Lloyd Winn and Lorin Allred.

Sports and athletics have been an important part of Wasatch High. also. In 1944 and 1945 the basketball team captured state champions. Ship honors in the Class B tournaments under the coaching of Floyd ship honors in the Class B tournaments.

Slater, The wrestling team won first place in Utah in 1957. School debating teams were not to be outdone and won first place

state honors in 1952, 1953 and 1956.

During the years the high school has grown rapidly. Enrollment in the first class totaled 25 and by 1910 there was a graduating class of

The new building program even found enthusiastic response in the words of the high school song, "Wasatch, We Love Thee," written by Prof. O. A. Whitaker, music director of high and elementary schools. Verse three included mention of the new school. The words are as follows:

T

Wasatch, Dear, we love thee well;
"Tis here in peace and joy we dwell;
And in thy praise a song we'll swell,
Thy wond'rous destiny foretell.
Thou are nestled midst the hills,
With smiling brooks and laughing rills;
O, what rapture, my heart fills
With thanks to God my bosom thrills.
Refrain:

Wasatch, Oh, lovely Wasatch,
Beautiful, young and free;
Wasatch, Oh, my dear Wasatch,
Thou art home, art home to me.

II

Thy snow-capped spires towering high; Gleaming 'neath the sunlit sky; All with nature's beauties, vie, As canyon breezes softly sigh; Utah, Queen of all the West, With a Wasatch, thou art blessed; Lovelier than all the rest, So the stars and flowers confess.

III

Before another year has gone,
We'll labor hard, and build a home,
A high school building of our own.
The world will wonder how we've grown.
In years to come when we are gray,
We'll hear the untold thousands say:
"God bless our parents, bless the day
They gave to us a better way."

R. RAYMOND GREEN, M.D. 375 E. 2nd NORTH HEBER, UTAH



O. A. Whitaker, beloved music teacher in Wasatch schools.

And then in the yearbook of 1913 is this tribute:

"Professor Whitaker cannot be too highly praised for his work in the schools.

"We might write page after page about him, but with the limited space at our command, we can give no more than a brief summary of his most important work.

"He presented a very creditable opera last Christmas and is completing a very successful school year by presenting the opera 'The Merry Milkmaids.'

"He has built up a band of which Wasatch may well be proud. Out of the worst medley of sounds imaginable, he has trained an orchestra that has played some excellent music for several entertainments this winter."

From its inception, Wasatch High School claimed many "firsts" in statewide athletic and cultural competition. One of the most noteworthy achievements came in the years 1911 and 1912 when Ila Fisher (Maughan) put Heber City and Wasatch County on the state's cultural map by winning the state public speaking contests two years in a row.

The contests, sponsored by the University of Utah, drew the best high school orators from the state to Salt Lake City for the two-day competition.

In 1911 Miss Fisher won the contest's gold medal with an original oration on "Mother's Day." The old Salt Lake Herald Republican of May 20, 1911, carried a picture of the winner with a headline: 'Mother' Accorded the First Prize; Ila Fisher of Wasatch High School Wins Interscholastic Contest.

The Wasatch Wave of the following week reprinted the oration with a glowing tribute to its author and gold-medal winner.

Students of the new and growing high school were so proud of their classmate that they turned out en masse to meet her train as she arrived home from the contest. As she stepped from the train, Miss Fisher was greeted with stirring music from the school band. The group then went

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#### WILLIAM SYDNEY WILLES



William Sidney Willes was born at Lehi. Utah, on September 5, 1858, to William Sidney Smith Willes and Alzina Lucinda Lott Willes.

When 10 years old, his father was killed in an industrial accident. Being the eldest child, he went to work to help support his mother, brothers and sisers.

When a young man, a rolling log crushed one of his legs. He spent many agonizing months, but the limb was spared and healed, with very little impairment.

He moved to Heber City, Utah, about 1880, where he was associated with A Hatch & Co. in retail merchandising. It was in Heber City he met and later married Mary Lorintha Clyde, in the Salt Lake Temple, on November 30, 1882. To this

union five children were born. He spent his time at law study and was admitted to the bar entirely upon a self-study course.

His early ambitions for a career in the field of art were not to be. A mutual pact with a famous leading artist and boyhood companion for a share in the educational expense plan was never realized in his behalf, but his marvelous ability as depicted in his many paintings gave him great comfort as a pastime in his declining years.

He was a self-taught musician, playing both the violin and trumpet, and for many years was an active member of the Heber City band.

He was active in the Church, devoting much time as a high councilman. He served as Sunday school superintendent of Heber City Third Ward. Among the other varied Church activities, he served a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-year mission in 1904 and often referred to that experience has the richest of all."

He was purchasing agent for the Indians on the White Rock Reservation by government appointment.

He, with Mrs. Willes, established and operated the first photographic studio in Wasatch County. They also operated for a limited time in Vernal, Utah.

He was appointed by President Grover Cleveland. September 26, 1894, as "judge of probate in the county of Wasatch, Territory of Utah." He was attorney for the D&RG Railroad for Wasatch County many years and held several elective and appointive offices in Wasatch County.

He moved with his family from Heber City to Salt Lake City in 1918. He was juvenile judge of the Fourth Judicial District until his retirement in 1928.

He is to be remembered for his deep desire for learning and self and cultural improvement. His contribution was to the Church, community, state and nation.

He died in Salt Lake City, May 21, 1938, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

## MARY LORINTHA CLYDE WILLES

Mary Lorintha Clyde was born in Heber City, Utah, on September 24, 1862, to George Washington Clyde and Jane Mc-Donald Clyde. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 7, 1870.



She was a literary genius, a fluent speaker and a natural-born speaker, who used her talents to improve educational standards and spread the gospel.

At the age of eight, she received a set of pictures as a prize from Heber First Ward on winning a speech contest when she competed with people much older than herself. She taught school before she was 17, and, to quote her: "Many of the men in my class towered head and shoulders above me."

Her greatest joy was in teaching and counseling boys. She often said: "Give me the heart of a boy and you have given me something which lasts forever." This was demonstrated at her final rites, when men from all walks of life paid her tribute with silent tears. It was her policy to promote the underprivileged and unruly boys by putting them in positions of trust.

The Church records of Heber First Ward read as follows:

"Miss Mary Clyde, first president of the Heber First Ward Primary Assn., set apart by Bishop William Foreman on September 4, 1879.

"Released October 17, 1884. Married while in office."

This tells us she also served as charter president while 17 years of age.

She married William Sidney Willes in the Salt Lake Temple on November 30. 1882. To this union five children were born.

She and Mr. Willes established the first photographic studio in Wasatch County. It was here she supported her family and made possible the mission of her husband to England in 1904. They operated for a limited time a photographic studio at Vernal. Utah.

She established the first public library

in Wasatch County by circulating her own private library.

She was an active Church member and leader, serving in all auximary organizations. She was a dramatic and a humorous reader and entertained generously. She taught dramatics in the YLMIA, coached their plays and toured Wasatch County with her young Thespians.

She was literary teacher in the Rehef Society and was feature speaker at ward and stake activities. She served her community with eagerness. One assignment of which she was ever proud was in assisting with plan for the celebration of Utah statehood.

She was the first vice president of the Utah State Federation of Women's Clubs.

In 1918 she moved with her family to Salt Lake City from Heber City, where she continued her Church services as a literary teacher speaker and entertainer.

She organized "The Home Study Group," which has grown from its original 10 members to over 100 women who continue to study and promote Church doctrines.

She was a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Camp 11. Salt Lake County.

She was a devoted mother, with the highest principles of moral and religious obligations.

She served her community, stake and Church until curtailed by ill health in her declining years.

She died in Salt Lake City. Utah. on November 8, 1940, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery. **566** 

Musician Heber Band Attorney for wasatch Co



Samuel Joseph Wing, son of Matthias and Elizabeth Wing, was born in Pike County, Illinois, on August 13, 1842, the second son

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in a family of four boys. His mother was the daughter of Samuel Chenoweth, a Vir-

Samuel attended Whitehall College, Green County, Illinois. When 17 years of age he went to the lumber camps of Wisconsin to keep books for Phimas Wright, a wealthy sawmill operator. His intentions were to earn the means to attend medical school and get his degree as an M.D. When winter closed the sawmill he accepted the position as school teacher. The daughter of his former employer, Elizabeth Jane Wright, was teaching in the same school. He was attracted to her, and they were married June 24, 1860.

Through the efforts of LDS missionaries. Samuel accepted the gospel and was baptized March 2, 1862, and forthwith prepared that spring to join the saints in the Rocky Mountains, hoping to acquire land. build up with the Church and state. They arrived in Salt Lake City in early Septem-

ber. 1862.

Cities and towns were being established in Utah, and the leaders were calling for able teachers to go to these new settlements to teach science, philosophy, religion and music.

Brigham Young called Samuel Joseph Wing to go to Draper, 17 miles south of Salt Lake City, to assist John R. Parks. who was at that time principal of the school. A friendship grew between these teachers which lasted throughout their lives.

John R. Parks was called to be president of the University of Utah, 1868, and Samuel J. Wing was called to establish a school at Fort Harriman. There he built a home and married as his second wife. Harriet Stocking. In September, 1875, another call was made from Brigham Young to move to Heber City to open a school for the benefit of the young people whose parents were settling in the upper Provo Valley, at which time he purchased a farm about four miles from Heber and moved the first wife and family there.

He was instructed to teach music and to take charge of the music in the public gatherings. This appointment came on recommendation of his friend, John R. Parks.

In the fall of 1876 he was called to fill a mission for his Church and served in his native state of Illinois.

In the year 1901, when the Latter-day Saints were colonizing in Canada, he again went forth as a pioneer of a new country. hoping to acquire something for his old age. having lost everything excepting a small home at American Fork during the depression, and hard times for the sheepmen, when nearly all who were engaged in the sheep business failed.

He first settled in Raymond. Alberta. later moving to Taber. His age and adverse circumstances were against him, and after 13 years he returned to Utah, after the two youngest girls were married, and the burial of his last wife. He then lived with his daughter. Janet Wing Rooker, in Albion.

During the fall of 1915 he secured a job as weighmaster at the weighing station for beets at Brigham City, residing at the home of his stepson, Moroni Duke, after which he lived in the home of his daughter. Sarah Alice Wing Jacobs, at Sugar City. Idaho, where he passed away on January 23, 1918. Burial was at Heber City.

When asked to write something of himself to be published in the "Owl," the Wing family publication, he wrote: "I am a teacher, shepherd and farmer. Am still active in Sabbath School and MIA and other organizations among the young people, (age 70). I have spent my life pioneering. Have made no great noise in the world, but have kept busy doing all the good and as little harm as circumstances and ability would permit."

Children: Amy and Elvira (twins). Amanda, Samuel, Sarah Alice, Jane Elizabeth, Moriah, Joseph Samuel, Moriah, Janet Elizabeth, Rose Mary, Rosabell, Geneva and Golda Ina.

Music Composers

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